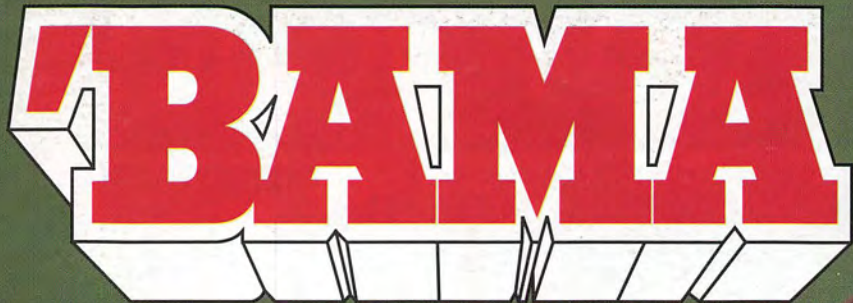




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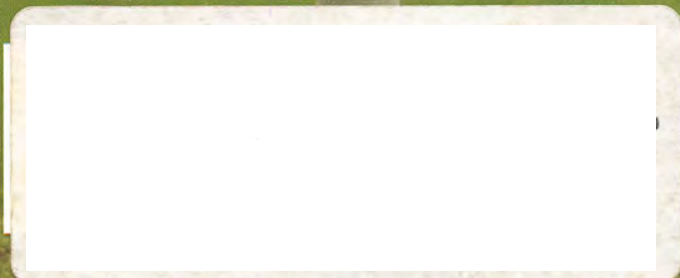
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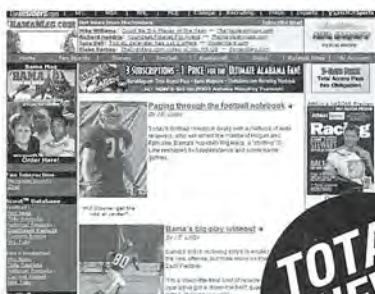
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Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE
(USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is pub-
lished monthly for ten months from August
to May by College Sports Publications, Inc.,
2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.
Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address
to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON
TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL
35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa,
Alabama, and at additional mailing office.
Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign
subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change
of address: Six weeks advance notice, and
old address as well as new required. Address
all correspondence to: Post Office Box
866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054.
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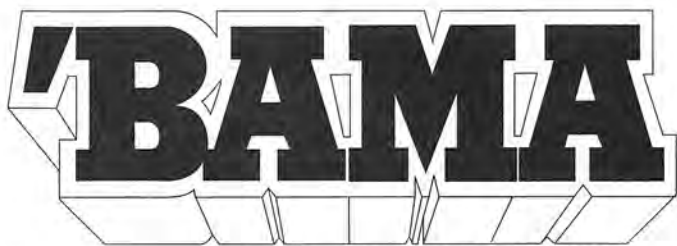
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Publishers Association

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(352) 372-1215

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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MAY, 2003



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MAY, 2003

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5

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Football Players Get Up To Speed

by J.E. Lisby

Tide conditioning picks up to get players in better running shape for passing offense

Alabama Head Football Coach Mike Price was generally pleased with what he saw of his new team during the Crimson Tide's spring drills in March. But Price mentioned more than once during the practices that Bama players weren't used to the amount of running required by the new offense, which emphasizes the passing game.

Price didn't complain to Alabama Strength and Conditioning Coach Ben Pollard. He didn't have to. Pollard had predicted the problem going in.

"We were in the worst running shape we've been in since I got here," Pollard said. "It was a combination of December and then starting a month early."

Now Bama is catching up.

Adjusting to Alabama's new emphasis on the pass, the squad has made a slight change to its off-season conditioning regimen. After returning from spring break, the Tide athletes were lifting weights three times a week and running the other two days. Players worked out either at 6:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

A few in the "Weight Loss Crew" do double duty, showing up at both the morning and midday workouts. On running days the likes of heavyweights Anthony Bryant, Ahmad Childress and Dennis Alexander run with both groups. On lifting days they do their lifts at one session and ride the exercise bicycles at the other.

It's not that the Tide has decreased its recent emphasis on gaining strength. Rather it's a matter of adding a priority. "We're running twice as much as before," Pollard said.

The semester will end in early May, and with the emphasis shifting to academics for final examinations the off-season program was to be interrupted. In anticipation of that break, Pollard worked the players hard. "I'm really over-training them," he said in the final week before the break. "But that's okay. We'll be back in the groove again when summer term starts, and we'll be able to make real progress."



Ben Pollard, Bama's highly-regarded strength and conditioning coach, will have Bama in shape for fall drills.

University of Alabama Photo

In between spring and summer semesters, The University schedules an Interim term, lasting two weeks. Those classes are specialized, and the great majority of students do not attend. However, those football athletes on campus (probably 20-30) will continue to work out.

Normally the great majority of the team will either enroll for both summer terms or spend those months in Tuscaloosa, provid-

ing a chance for the players to participate in voluntary workouts in preparation for the 2003 season. Former Coach Dennis Franchione made the summer work virtually mandatory with his decree that anyone failing to participate would not play in the fall. Price has made no such decree, but Pollard expects 100 per cent participation.

So why weren't Alabama players in good shape for spring practice. Pollard noted a couple of reasons. The veteran strength coach pointed out that NCAA sanctions include penalties not realized by everyone. Alabama was ineligible for a bowl game at the conclusion of last season. While a bowl game is a reward for a successful season, it is also a time when a team gets about a month of additional practice and workout time. With no bowl game, Pollard pointed out, the players were on their own to maintain conditioning for over a month, from the time of the last game at Hawaii until the start of off-season workouts in January.

It's not that no one worked out, because many did. But even the most dedicated athlete cannot duplicate the same level of intensity and effort with a trip by himself to the local gym.

The other factor was one of scheduling. In years past Alabama arranged it so that spring break exactly cut spring football practice in half. That strategy had some good points. For example, the off week gave athletes a chance to heal up from the inevitable bumps and bruises. But the players also complained about how difficult it was to stay focused and in peak condition. Running on the beach during spring break is not really the conditioning needed for football.

For several reasons, the decision was made this year to move the schedule up, meaning that Coach Pollard and the players "lost" almost three weeks of preparation time.

"I'm not going to let that happen again," said Pollard.

Alabama Gets Two Commitments

by Freddie Kirby

Tide coaches have begun work to add top players

Alabama's football coaching staff has now received two commitments for the 2004 signing year. This will be Bama's final year of restricted scholarship additions under NCAA sanctions. Alabama will be allowed to sign 19. (In the event there are not 18 new signees among those reporting in August, Alabama could add early graduates in December to count against the 2003 signing class.)

The first two commitments are Aaron Johns, a running back and slotback from Thomasville, and Titus Ryan, a 2002 Alabama signee from Tuscaloosa County who is now at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. Here is an in-depth look:

Aaron Johns, 5-10, 182, has been clocked at 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash. Last season he had at least three disadvantages: Sharing running back duties with two teammates; playing with a hand that was fractured in two places; incredibly bad penalty luck. Indeed, Johns had final statistics of only 500 yards and nine touchdowns rushing. However, penalties wiped out over 600 yards in rushing yardage and several touchdown runs.

Alabama has had good luck recruiting in Thomasville recently. Two years ago the Tide got an early commitment from cornerback Anthony Madison, now competing for a starting job at Bama. And last year Chris Felder (who would transfer with his uncle, Coach Shannon Felder, to Wilcox Central in Camden) committed to Bama and will enter The University in August.

Thomasville Coach Jack Hankins said, "Aaron is a hard worker. He has great hips. He is more electrifying and physically stronger than either Anthony Madison or Chris Felder."

Johns was all-district last season for his play at cornerback. He turned in 55 tackles and had two interceptions.

He bench presses 260, squats 405, and power cleans 270. He said he is a "C" student who made 15 on his first try on the ACT and he is expected to qualify academically.



Aaron Johns

His coach said Johns picked Alabama over Georgia Tech, Louisville, and Southern Miss. His coach said his school list was growing daily.

Titus Ryan was recognized as the fastest player in the state when he was at Tuscaloosa County High School. Ryan, 6-2, 200, has been timed at 4.31 seconds in the 40-yard dash. He has a relatively limited history as a football player, but has been a star athlete in track and field for some time.

Ryan is performing well on the field and in the classroom at East Central Community College in Mississippi, but it is too early to say if he might be able to complete graduation requirements in time to be an early signee next December.

Titus did not begin playing football until his junior year in high school. As a junior,



Titus Ryan

operating almost completely on natural ability, he rushed for over 1,500 yards and 16 touchdowns. With a year of coaching from Coach Robert Higginbotham, he became a more reliable running back with good instincts. He rushed for 1,300 yards and 17 touchdowns in his final season at Tuscaloosa County. He also developed into an excellent pass-catcher out of the backfield.

At East Central, he began his junior college football career as a wide receiver. However, injuries in the backfield forced a move back to tailback for the final six games of the season. Even though he played with a soft cast on his hand, he had 102 carries for 570 yards (5.6 yards per carry) and six touchdowns. He finished second in the state in rushing and was third in the league in scoring with 48 points. (His teammate, Ramon Williams of Brookwood in Tuscaloosa County, was the state's leading rusher.)

Ryan was the only freshman who made the junior college all-state team.

He will return to wide receiver this fall and that is expected to be his position at Alabama.

It's a long time until February 4, 2004, which is Football Signing Day for upcoming high school seniors and junior college sophomores. And it's a long time until the middle of January, when most college football fans will begin to focus on the prospects of the upcoming recruiting class.

But this is a very important time for college coaches. The off-season between spring

McClain Won't Graduate

Although it is too early to say whether running back Le'Ron McClain, an Alabama football signee from Tuscaloosa County High School, will be eligible as a freshman with the Crimson Tide, his high school coach, Robert Higginbotham, told *The Tuscaloosa News* that McClain had failed the exit examination required for graduation from Alabama high schools. He will not graduate with his class, but will have another opportunity to pass the test in July.

If McClain is not eligible, Higginbotham said, McClain will go either to prep school or junior college.

McClain's teammate, linebacker Terrence Jones (also a Bama signee), did pass his exam, Higginbotham said.

practice and the fall reporting date in early August is a period when many prospects will make final decisions, even though those decisions may not be revealed until much later. It is a time when coaches and prospects learn a great deal about one another, when trust is earned.

There will be other factors in the recruiting wars. Prospects naturally worry about playing time and want good facilities and need to go to colleges where they can receive an education in a field of interest.

It is also important that the college coach have a good relationship with the high school coach. When Alabama's current staff was being put together during the final weeks, and even days, of 2003 recruiting, there was little time for that process. However, since the completion of that first Mike Price signing class, Bama's coaches have taken steps to know the state's prep coaches and to be known by those in the high school ranks.

Alabama's coaches have made it clear across the state and region that their doors are open to high school coaches. Additionally, Alabama again had a spring coaching clinic in which high school coaches from throughout the state and region had an opportunity to swap ideas with Bama's staff and to watch Crimson Tide practice sessions. Some 400 coaches registered for the clinic.

While having a good relationship with high school coaches is obviously beneficial to a college recruiting staff, even more important is that the school and football program appeal to the athletes. It is important to have those prospects on campus as often as possible.

A natural time for prospects to visit and see the campus is the spring game, and no fewer than 150 high school football players were reported as being in Tuscaloosa when Alabama had its A-Day Game March 29.

Those prospects were on unofficial visits, meaning they paid their own expenses. They were on the campus of The University only for part of the day that Saturday, most of that time spent in the stadium watching the Crimson-White game.

But there was a limited time for prospects to meet with Bama coaches and Alabama players. There were probably a few scholarships offered,



Tyrone King, Jr.

perhaps a few not yet announced that were accepted. Aaron Johns reportedly made his decision to sign with Alabama based primarily on his visit to campus for the spring game.

Those prospects spotted at the A-Day Game included (in alphabetical order):

Quarterback Blake Barnes of Baldwin, Mississippi, defensive end Justin Britt of Cullman, defensive lineman Cody Brown of East Mississippi Junior College in Scooba, defensive tackle David Brown of Madison Bob Jones, linebacker Titus Brown of Tuscaloosa Hillcrest, defensive back Marcus Carter of Fort Payne, linebacker Larico Crumpton of Columbiana Shelby County, quarterback Michael Darden of Albertville, tight end Trent Davidson of Brewton T.R. Miller, offensive tackle Cody Davis of Tuscaloosa Hillcrest, offensive tackle Drew Davis of Evergreen Sparta Academy;

Linebacker Curtis Dawson of Birmingham Hoover, running back Tony Dixon of Jasper Parrish, offensive guard Jeff Farr of Pell City (and junior offensive guard Andrew Farr of Pell City), offensive tackle Cody Greene of Cullman, defensive end Jeremie Holifield of Birmingham Hoover, athlete Antonio Hunter of Raymond, Mississippi, running back Aaron Johns of Thomasville, linebacker Andrew Jones of Adamsville Minor, cornerback Tyrone King, Jr., of Adamsville Minor,

running back Markus Manson of Tuscaloosa Hillcrest, running back Max Martin of Madison Bob Jones, fullback Cole Mason of Jasper Parrish;

Tight end Travis McCall of Prattville, running back Aaron McDaniel of Fort Payne, offensive guard Brandon Montgomery of Evergreen Hillcrest, defensive end Eric Phillips of Birmingham Wenonah, defensive tackle Anterio Rodgers of Brundidge Pike County, fullback Josh Smyth of Birmingham Hoover, wide receiver Nikita Stover of Hartselle, defensive end Brandon Suggs of Russellville, offensive tackle John Watts of Russellville, and wide receiver Patrick White of Daphne.

Also on hand were several incoming Alabama players, including Demarcus Waldrop, Matt Caddell, Tim Castille, Earnest Nance, Justin Moon, Chris Capps, Le'Ron McClain, Terrence Jones, and Cliff Davis.

Alabama's coaching staff has indicated it will have a general philosophy similar to that of the most successful Crimson Tide teams of the past, which is a team that is able to run the football and stop the opponent from running. (There is a change in philosophy from the standpoint that the offense will establish the pass in order to set up the run.)

Having a team capable of running the football and stopping the run means having good linemen on both sides of the football. Bama's first two commitments came from skill position players, but this Alabama recruiting class must include a number of linemen. Some have suggested the 19 available scholarships need to be used to include as many as 10 or 12 linemen, about an equal number on offense and defense.

But Alabama is also expected to sign a quarterback or two, a couple of running backs, as many as four wide receivers, a tight end, two linebackers, and two defensive backs.

That adds up to more than 19, so the coaching staff will have to make decisions on how to cover as many needs as possible with limited scholarships.

The work doesn't start in January, or even next football season. Recruiting is well under way.

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Top 2003-04 Senior Football Prospects In Alabama

Name, Pos.	Hgt	Wgt	High School
Chester Adams, OT	6-5	325	Luverne
Tony Bell, LB	6-3	215	Alabaster Thompson
Justin Britt, DE	6-4	240	Cullman
David Brown, DE	6-3	250	Madison Bob Jones
Simeon Castille, CB	6-0	185	B'ham Briarwood Christian
Dietrick Causey, Athlete	6-2	195	Southern Choctaw
Elijah Daniel, WR	6-2	180	Pike County
Cody Davis, OT	6-7	265	Tuscaloosa Hillcrest
Drew Davis, DL	6-7	285	Evergreen Sparta Academy
Trent Davidson, TE	6-6	250	Brewton T.R. Miller
Curtis Dawson, LB/DE	6-1	250	Hoover
Tony Dixon, RB	5-10	185	Parrish
Jeff Farr, OG/DT	6-4	300	Pell City
Nathan Farrow, OG	6-3	275	Clay-Chalkville
Brian Glenn, Athlete	5-11	180	Clay County
Cody Greene, OG	6-5	296	Cullman*
Kevin Hamilton, DE	6-3	245	Prattville
Trent Heatherington, RB	5-10	175	Wetumpka
Chevis Jackson, CB/WR	6-0	175	Mobile St. Paul
Al Jefferson, OL	6-2	290	Mobile Davidson
#Aaron Johns, RB-WR	5-10	182	Thomasville
Allen Johnson, OL	6-3	280	Mobile Murphy
Tyrone King, CB	6-0	185	Adamsville Minor
Ezekiel Knight, WR	6-4	205	Randolph County
Dusty Lindsey, ILB	6-4	216	Mobile Davidson
Jordin Lindsey, ILB	6-4	225	Mobile Davidson
Jonathan Lyons, OT	6-4	295	Mobile McGill-Toolen
David Manning, QB	6-4	200	Huntsville Grissom
Markus Manson, RB	6-0	195	Tuscaloosa Hillcrest
Cole Mason, FB	6-2	230	Parrish
Travis McCall, TE	6-3	225	Prattville
Dee McClure, WR	5-11	178	Adamsville Minor
Brandon Montgomery, OG	6-3	340	Evergreen Hillcrest
Chris Nickson, QB	6-2	190	Pike County
Philip Nola, DT	6-4	260	Hoover Spain
Eric Phillips, DE	6-5	250	Birmingham Wenonah
Reginald Powe, OT	6-8	325	Mobile Murphy
Robert Reyes, OT	6-6	280	Mobile Shaw
Travis Robinson, DB	5-11	175	Tuscaloosa Hillcrest
Jamie Simpson, RB/WR	5-11	190	Evergreen Hillcrest
B.J. Stabler, OL	6-5	290	Clarke County
Ron Steele, WR	6-1	180	Birmingham John Carroll
Nikita Stover, WR	6-2	190	Hartselle
Brandon Suggs, DE	6-1	218	Russellville
Brandon Thornton, RB	5-9	180	Homewood
Cody Turner, OL	6-6	345	Flomaton
John Watts, OT	6-6	250	Russellville
Phillip Williams, S	6-1	185	Meek

*Cody Greene transferred from Oneonta to Cullman #Aaron Johns committed to Alabama



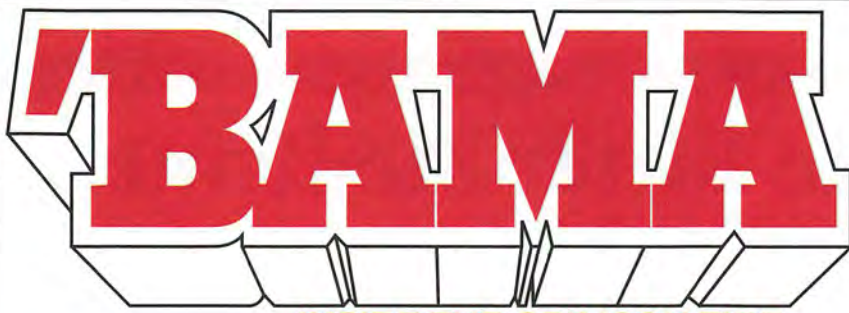
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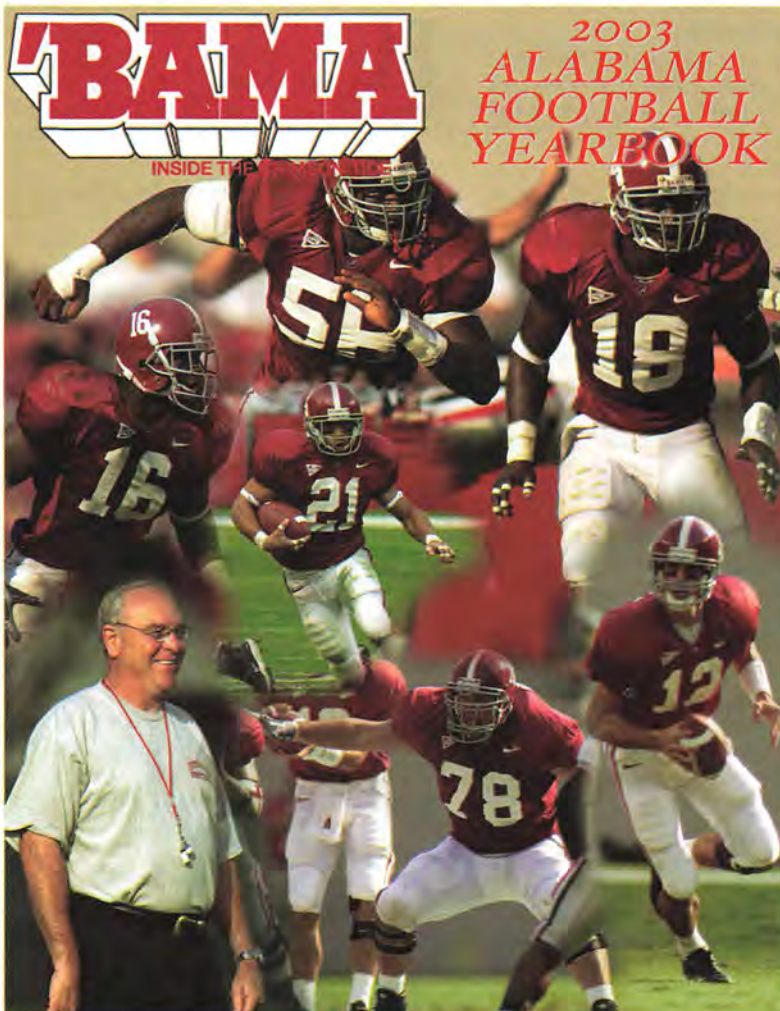


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Taking Some Bitter Medicine

by Kirk McNair

Drug test failure means missing a year of playing

Nothing could have prepared Alabama defensive end Todd Bates for what would be his worst day as a football player. And it's likely that few would be able to have the positive outlook Bates will take into preparing for the 2004 football season.

Bates should have been looking forward to his junior season, beginning this fall. However, what Crimson Tide Head Coach Mike Price called "a violation of team policy" means Bates will be only a member of Bama's practice squad in the fall.

Privacy laws prohibited Price from disclosing Bates' transgression. But when the coach said that Bates would not be able to take a redshirt season in order to retain two years of eligibility he gave a broad hint. An NCAA by-law governing the use of banned substances says "a student-athlete who tests positive...shall be charged with the minimum of the equivalent of one full season of competition."

Bates confirmed that he had tested positive for a banned substance.

Price called it a "bad decision."

Bates thinks it was incredibly bad luck.

Everyone agrees that Bates is a good person. Price called him "a fine young man" in announcing the suspension.

His high school coach, Michael Shortt at Cleburne County High School in Heflin, can't say enough good about his former star. "The thing Todd worries most about is what young people will think of him," Shortt said. "Unlike a lot of modern athletes, Todd thinks it is important that a college football player be a role model." When Bates was home during The University's spring break he spent time at Cleburne County lifting weights. And Shortt, who recognizes Bates as a good person, asked Bates to address Cleburne County's football squad.

Bates remains on Alabama's team and will practice this fall. He will play his final season of college football in 2004.

Bates was reluctant to discuss his situation for several weeks. But, he said, "I've heard rumors about myself. It hurt my feelings that people thought I was on steroids or something." He wanted to clear the air on his mistake.

(There was also a rumor that Bates had been told by Alabama's staff that it was all right to use the product containing the banned substance, but that is not true.)

Although Bates has been a regular the past two seasons, he has had limitations. In 2001 he was the only true freshman to make Alabama's playing rotation, even though he came to Bama while recuperating from shoulder surgery. He was expected to be redshirted last season after undergoing groin surgery in the summer, but made an excellent comeback and participated as a back-up defensive end.

He has participated in 22 games in his first two seasons, including playing in all 13 games last year. Last season he was in on 28 tackles and had two sacks.

It was at the end of last season that a combination of events resulted in Bates' mistake.

"I was just bound and determined to play last year," he said. "When I had surgery I was told it could take six months to a year. But I also heard of people taking six to eight weeks or less. I wanted to be one of those six to eight weeks people. I knew my team needed me."

Bates did recover enough to play. But, he said, "I jumped into it without being able to get in shape. I had lost muscle and picked up excess body fat weight."

At the end of the season, Alabama's coaching staff picked up and left for Texas A&M. Bates didn't know who he would be playing for this year, but he knew he had to get back into shape. Home for Christmas break, Bates headed to a store in Anniston, a store that is part of a national chain selling health and healing supplements.

"In high school I had injured my shoulder and had surgery," Bates said. "I lost muscle. I had gotten a supplement, Ripped Fuel, and it helped me get that muscle back. I also found something, glutamine, that helps heal joints. I looked up glutamine on the internet to make sure it was okay. It said it replaces naturally-occurring amino acids. I didn't even bother looking up Ripped Fuel because I had been on it in high school."

The Ripped Fuel package contained 60

pills. Bates took two before working out and two after, finishing the package in two weeks. The recommended dosage is no more than six tablets per day.

He said when he returned to Tuscaloosa after Christmas break he was notified that he had been randomly selected to take an NCAA drug test. "I wasn't worried," he said. "I hadn't done any drugs or steroids or anything. I had never taken the test before, but I wasn't a bit stressed about it."

He was shocked when he was called into the office of Assistant Athletics Director Kevin Almond and told he had failed the drug test. "I couldn't believe it," Bates said. "I told him it had to be a mistake and asked if I could take the test again."

He took the test again, but the result was the same.

"Coach Almond asked me if I had taken anything and I told him," Bates said. "He looked it up and said Ripped Fuel had ephedra. I couldn't believe it. I had heard of ephedra. We get instructions on various supplements. But I really wasn't aware it was in something like Ripped Fuel. I mean, they are selling that in a health store. You would think it would be banned like marijuana or something."

(Editor's Note: Ripped Fuel is a product of Twinlab, which distributes an ephedra-free form of the supplement.)

Almond also told him the penalty, that Bates would be ineligible in 2003 and that he would lose a year of eligibility.

There was an appeal opportunity.

"I worked on my appeal for two months," Bates said. He said he had assistance from Almond, Head Coach Mike Price, Defensive Ends Coach Paul Randolph, Strength and Conditioning Coach Ben Pollard, and Director of Sports Medicine Bill McDonald.

"I wrote it over and over," Bates said. "I knew the committee would not know who I was or what school I attended. I tried to give them a slice of who I am."

Who Todd Bates is had to impress the committee members.

He said, "I told them that I was a true sophomore who had completed over 50 per cent of my degree requirements (he's majoring in business management). Coach Pollard

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Todd Bates has seen considerable playing time over the past two years, but because of his use of a product with a banned substance, he will not be able to play for Alabama this season. He will be able to practice and plans to return for his final season of eligibility in 2004. Barry Fikes Photo

gave them a history of my strength gains showing that my numbers have gone up gradually and naturally.

"I wanted them to know that I wasn't trying to cheat the system or beat the system or get an edge in any way. I was just trying to get back in shape and didn't have coaches here to advise me."

On March 24 Bates was in DCH Regional Medical Center having just had foot surgery. He was given a short break from his hospital stay to join Alabama's staff and his father in the football building for the conference call on his appeal.

"Coach Price said something and Coach Moore (Athletics Director Mal Moore) spoke

for me," Bates said. "I had a lot of support. The call lasted about an hour, and I was sure the appeal would be successful."

Bates said, "We tried to keep it quiet because I thought I would win this case."

It was kept quiet. Price revealed the penalty on March 27, two days before the A-Day Game, when the head coach revealed that Bates would not participate in the spring game in any event because he was hospitalized.

After the appeal, Bates was returned to DCH to wait on the verdict. About two hours later Almond brought him the bad news.

"That was the worst I ever felt," Bates said. "It was the worst news I ever got. I would

never do anything that would jeopardize me being on the field because I love it so much. This will be the first year I can ever remember not playing football games."

Bates can't help but lament over his punishment. But he has the ability to see both sides. "I think they were going to be tough and make an example out of me," he said. "They didn't want me to have any excuse. And I think they are trying to save lives. If I hadn't taken the test, I'd still be on Ripped Fuel and back on it this summer."

"I'm not saying I think they were right to do that to me, but I think overall they are trying to do the right thing and send the right message to athletes to protect them."

Bates knows of one benefit. "Several of my teammates told me I saved their senior year because they would have bought Ripped Fuel," he said. "It sent a message to the team. Hopefully it opened up eyes everywhere. I'm sure there are players on every team in the nation who have been on Ripped Fuel. Hopefully they saw the news and saw that it cost me a year."

Early in major league baseball spring training this year, Steve Bechler, a pitcher in the Baltimore organization, died and ephedra was identified as a contributing cause. "I think the baseball player dying hurt my appeal," Bates said. "I was told that if an NFL player tests positive for ephedra that he has to miss about two games, which isn't much. But the NCAA is taking it seriously."

Equal to his disappointment at losing a year of football is his gratitude for his coaches and teammates. He said, "I'm thankful Coach Price didn't take my scholarship. I'm still on the team. I'll be able to practice. I just don't get to play on Saturdays. In times like this you find out who is really for you and who is there just for the good times. I know who is going to be there through thick and thin for me—my coaches and teammates and true friends."

Bates, 6-4, 250, is determined to take advantage of the opportunity remaining.

"I'm going to keep working and come back my senior year and play my heart out," he said. "I'm going to try to be 10 times better. Last year I was mostly on special teams. This year I was expecting my role to be a lot bigger."

He is over the foot surgery of this spring and is back working out. And he said he was able to take care of all his school work while in the hospital.

"This is like a detour," he said. "I think I can get back and be better for my team. I still have some groin problems and some shoulder problems, so this will give me time to lift weights and be better in 2004."

"Maybe I'll get to end my career with a championship. I try to find the good in things. I look at it as that it happened for a reason. I know I'm a good person. I'd never do anything to hurt my body. I'll find something good out of this pain."

Some Tiders Helped Themselves

by J.E. Lisby

Although the spring game is just one practice, those playing well may benefit

Alabama Head Coach Mike Price put a lot of thought into the format for this year's spring football game. The A-Day Game wasn't meant to be fair. Price loaded up the Crimson squad with the first team offense and defense, as well as a handful of others battling for first team jobs. The result was a predictable 47-0 Crimson romp.

Price wasn't interested in a close game. He was determined to have a productive 15th practice. The first offense had worked against the first defense through much of spring practice, and there was no reason to pit them again. The result of such a match is almost always a big win for the defense, and with Alabama having put in new schemes this year, that would almost certainly have been the case in an A-Day match-up of first against first.

There was also little to be gained by dividing the teams with a mixture of first and second teamers on each squad (first team left tackle, second team left guard, etc.). That's not the way they will play in the fall.

Price took the approach of putting the players who will play together beginning with the South Florida game on August 30 on the Crimson team. It gave them a chance to work on their schemes as a team and it gave them confidence heading into the off-season before the resumption of fall work in early August.

Price had also said he wanted the A-Day Game to resemble a real game as much as possible. He wanted his coaches working like it was a real game and he wanted the atmosphere in Bryant-Denny Stadium to be as close as possible to a fall Saturday. Owing to temperature in the 40s, perhaps cooler than Bama will have in any game in the fall, the crowd was only a conservatively estimated 34,000.

Still, this was the best opportunity for Bama players to show their new coaches what they could do in the clutch. For the most part it was very good.

Price and his coaching staff won't make fall practice determinations based solely on

A-Day performances. That would be bad news for some, such as quarterback Spencer Pennington. Pennington did not have a good spring game, even when he was switched over to work with the Crimson squad. But he had 14 good practices leading up to A-Day.

But good play by a number of players in the spring game won't be forgotten by the coaches as they make fall plans.

First, a look at the defense. Fans certainly enjoyed the outstanding performances turned in by players like defensive end Antwan Odom, middle linebacker Derrick Pope, safety Charles Jones and weakside linebacker Brooks Daniels. But there was good play from those not so well established.

One of the biggest surprises in the scrimmage was the excellent play of senior cornerback David Scott. With several younger players vying for playing time, Scott may have been lost in the shuffle. But in the spring game he may have been the most impressive corner on the field. Playing for the White squad, Scott (5-11, 181) was matched up against the Tide's best receivers, who were being thrown to by number one quarterback Brodie Croyle.

Officially Scott was credited with just two pass deflections, but both saved touchdowns. On the first he was matched up man-to-man on the receiver in the corner of the end zone. As the pass arrived over his man's outside shoulder, Scott calmly turned, jumped and swatted the ball away. Later he was matched up on a deep post route over the middle. Scott's man had a half step on him, but the senior showed maturity by going up and battling for the football, knocking it harmlessly to the turf. It was an aggressive play, probably bordering on pass interference. But when it's a choice of penalty or touchdown, the wise cornerback does what has to be done.

During spring most of the buzz surrounding back-up cornerbacks was directed toward Thurman Ward and Ramzee Robinson. But determined to make his final season his best, Scott has clearly made himself a man to be reckoned with.

When the flu prevented Leslie Williams from playing, sophomore Mark Anderson (6-6, 230) stepped into his starting position at defensive end and did not disappoint. A tad undersized right now for the position, Anderson has excellent speed, which he uses to good effect in rushing the passer.

The official statistics credited him with two solo tackles, one of which was a sack for a loss of 13 yards. But on numerous other plays his rush disrupted the play, forcing the opposing

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David Scott was little-used last season after transferring from junior college, but he showed in the spring he will be a part of the playing rotation. Barry Fikes Photo

quarterback (usually Spencer Pennington) to throw sooner than he wanted.

Defensive Coordinator Joe Kines said Anderson is a natural at defensive end. Anderson made the move from outside linebacker to defensive end in the final two weeks of spring drills, an experiment that has paid dividends and is now permanent.

"That may have been the smartest move we made all spring," Kines said.

So far the tenure of Carlos Andrews at Alabama has been marked by more practice-field promise than on-the-field performance. And when spring began with Roman Harper starting ahead of him at strong safety, it didn't look like anything had changed.

But on A-Day, the senior appeared set to finish his college career with a bang.

He seemed to be all over the field. Andrews (6-0, 216) finished as A-Day's leading tackler with nine solo stops. Shaud Williams definitely remembers Andrews. On a first-quarter sweep around right end, the senior tailback briefly appeared to have some running room. But then Andrews raced in, slamming Williams to the grass with a jarring tackle.

Andrews also had his squad's only forced

turnover. At 2:10 of the third quarter, Spencer Pennington (then playing for Crimson) attempted a deep pass over the middle. Timing the play perfectly from his safety position, Andrews made a clean pick, returning the interception for 17 yards.

Harper's starting job is probably still safe, but clearly Andrews intends to be a part of next season's playing rotation.

At the critical punting position, the jury is still out on who will trot out on the field on fourth down to hopefully boot the Tide out of trouble. Bo Freeland (6-5, 230) and Jeff Aul (6-2, 200) were bracketed together entering A-Day with several other candidates trailing behind, and that's probably still the case.

Officially Aul had only one punt, which went for 44 yards. Freeland punted twice for an average of 44.5 yards per effort. However, Freeland's booming 52-yarder toward the end of the scrimmage brought appreciative "Ahhhs" from the crowd, proving his reputation for having a strong leg.

Five athletes punted at least once during A-Day, and that number will almost certainly be pared down by the fall. Freeland needs to work on his technique and consistency, but he definitely helped himself with his performance.

On offense the story was much the same, perhaps even more obvious, as most of the skill position players on the Crimson squad had stand-out performances. Fans no doubt left the game talking of players like Brodie Croyle, Triandos Luke, Shaud Williams and Zach Fletcher. But others improved their stock in the A-Day Game.

In truth all four Tide tight ends enjoyed a good spring, but most of the attention focused on David Cavan, a tall, rangy athlete who is ideally suited for the new Bama offense. But in the spring game a name from last year had his day.

Clint Johnston caught three passes for 47 yards, including an impressive effort in which he adjusted his route as his quarterback scrambled, working his way free in the end zone where Brodie Croyle found him for a 24-yard touchdown pass.

A warrior in the weight room, Johnston (6-4, 248) is an effective blocker. But he proved that he's not simply a muscle-bound, slow-footed lineman. Showing excellent ability to catch the football, Johnston is also a threat running pass routes and deserves to be an integral part of next year's offense.

To one degree or another improvement is relative, but walk-on receiver Matt Miller (6-2, 207) helped himself. Playing for the White squad, which meant he was matched up against the first-team defense, Miller caught one pass for 19 yards, leading his squad in that category. But he also showed his very good athleticism, returning two kickoffs for a total of 40 yards.

Matt's brother, Marc Miller, was also a walk-on, playing quarterback and safety during his career at The Capstone. In fact



The general feeling going into spring training was that Carlos Andrews would be at wide receiver. But he switched back to strong safety and had a good spring. Barry Fikes Photo

both brothers started their Tide careers at quarterback before moving to other positions. Matt and Marc are the sons of former Tide linebacker Noah Dean Miller (1973). Entering Dental School next fall, Marc's Crimson career is finished, but his younger brother appears poised to at least take his place as a valuable role player for the Tide.

Brian Bostick's placekicking performance wasn't really a surprise, but it was reassuring to fans and coaches. He and Kyle Robinson had established themselves as essentially co-starters earlier in the spring. But Bostick (5-9, 216) took the first field goal kick, indicating he entered A-Day perhaps a shade ahead of Robinson.

Bostick had a very good scrimmage. For the day he attempted two field goals, one from 36 and the other from 19 yards, making both. Bostick was successful on his one extra point attempt, and he also did a serviceable job on his kickoff efforts.

His chance involved a poor snap, but Robinson missed his one field goal attempt. The final decision is far from made, but Bostick did nothing to hurt himself in the race to see who will handle Bama's placekicking duties next fall.

Adam Pavkovich:

Hard Work Gets Him To Top

by Drew Champlin

Junior shortstop has gotten better at plate and in field

There is an adage in team sports that stresses the importance of being "strong up the middle." Think about quarterback, center, tailback, middle linebacker, safety in football; point guard and center in basketball. In baseball that is catcher, pitcher, second baseman, shortstop, centerfielder. And on a baseball team with few returning starters, it is particularly important. It helps to have a solid shortstop who has shown signs of leadership and has great range as well as the ability to hit the baseball.

It has helped this year's Alabama baseball team that Adam Pavkovich is playing shortstop. Pavkovich, a junior from Venice, Florida, has hit over .350 through the first half of Southeastern Conference play, and is part of the reason that an inexperienced Tide team was able to stay competitive in a tough SEC Western Division.

This is the same Adam Pavkovich who struggled at the plate his freshman year, hitting .254, and struggled in the field his sophomore year, leading the SEC with 24 errors.

"There's a dramatic difference from when he first got here," Crimson Tide Coach Jim Wells said. "This year he's making all the routine plays and showing more power. Every phase of his game is better, and he's improved each and every year."

Pavkovich was connected to the Alabama program through Craig Faulkner, his coach at Venice High School. Faulkner played catcher at LSU at the same time Wells was a graduate assistant at the program.

"Craig called me and said he had a guy who could really pick it and play some de-

Alabama shortstop Adam Pavkovich may be the most improved player Crimson Tide Coach Jim Wells has coached.
Barry Fikes Photo





fense" Wells said. "I told Craig to send him to our Christmas camp. Adam came, but he hurt his knee, so we didn't really get to look at him that second day. We had 500 kids there, and we were honing in on him that second day, but he couldn't do anything."

Nevertheless, his potential was too much to pass up. Pavkovich signed with the Tide in the summer of 2000, and enrolled as a skinny freshman, tipping the scales at about 155 pounds. All he had going for him was his strong arm.

"I was young; real young, real tiny," Pavkovich said. "My body didn't fill out. It was just learning the ropes here, watching guys like Jeremy Brown and Brent Boyd. Compared back then, the game from high school to here, the game speed is so much faster and so different. It's what I had to get used to."

The hardest part was the hitting. Pavkovich's defense earned him some playing time at shortstop and third base, but his inability to hit consistently and for power kept him on the bench during the latter part of the season. He didn't hit a home run that year.

"He couldn't hit it out of the infield," Wells said. "He looked like he was swinging a wet newspaper."

He surely didn't look like he'd ever hit any home runs at Alabama. But in the off-season, Pavkovich worked hard in the weight room, and added some strength. It translated well at the plate, as he hit six home runs in his sophomore season.

"I think the biggest thing is his strength," said senior outfielder Beau Hearod, Pavkovich's roommate. "He worked hard in the weight room and it's showing on the field."

Pavkovich has upped his weight to 195 pounds, the result of a strong weight lifting program and better eating. He said he eats "five or six" meals a day, and avoids soft drinks and fast food.

While his sophomore season saw improvements at the plate, Pavkovich led the SEC in errors with 24. He began the season as backup to Carlos Sosa at the shortstop position, but soon took over as the starter. It was a season that saw many ups and downs, but one that has helped him adjust to the speed of the game. This season, Pavkovich had 10 errors through the midway point of the conference schedule, but many of those came early on.

"This year I rolled off five (errors) real quick at the beginning of the season," Pavkovich said. "It shouldn't have happened. But it's slowed down. Everything's so fast and I was rushing myself as a freshman, but now everything's really natural."



Adam Pavkovich enjoys living in Tuscaloosa and Alabama fans enjoy watching the Crimson Tide baseball star, who is one of the Bama leaders.
Barry Fikes Photo

The hitting has stepped up as well. Midway through the season Pavkovich was hitting .351 with seven home runs and 31 runs batted in, batting mostly in the number three spot, just in front of cleanup hitter Hearod. That spot in the hitting order is a testament to Pavkovich's hard work.

"It's a good story," Wells said. "It shows how far a guy can go, and he's still got room to go. He's still got room for improvement, but he's improved as much as any player that we've had here. His work ethic has been good this spring. He's a workaholic, and always going 100 miles an hour."

He knew that the work ethic got him where he needed to be. I've been pleased with his effort and play, and he's been one of those steady influences on the team."

Adjusting to the Tuscaloosa culture has been a challenge for Pavkovich, but a fun one at that. A certified Scuba diver in Venice, Pavkovich misses that pastime. But he loves the Southern hospitality.

"The culture and people and atmosphere are totally different," Pavkovich said. "Venice is a beach and retirement community. There's a bunch of old people and kids who go out to the beach. Here its Southern, Bible belt, 'How y'all doing,' all that. People are more friendly here. I love it here; I love the change in seasons and the different scenery."

In high school, Pavkovich was the team leader. It's a role he's learning to adjust to at Alabama.

"I was a leader," Pavkovich said. "I kept the team together and I was the guy everyone wanted to come up to bat. But everyone here was in that position before he got to Alabama. I'm finally filling that role here. You have to learn the game here and what Coach Wells expects, and now it's starting to come."

One thing Pavkovich wanted to try at Alabama was to pitch. He's got the arm, a 93-miles per hour fastball and a wicked slider. He finally got his chance to pitch last season, in a relief outing against Georgia Southern. The result: three batters, three hits, and an infinite earned run average.

"They got some cheap hits off me," Pavkovich said. "I was ready. Coach Wells

said after that outing 'Don't let this bother you. I may have to run you out there tomorrow.' " But tomorrow hasn't come, at least not on an Alabama pitching mound.

In the Valley League last summer, Pavkovich got his chance to pitch some more. He appeared in seven games, with a 0-1 record and an 1.13 earned run average. He came into the season expecting to compete for a spot as a reliever, but has since given up on pitching.

"It was taking too much of a toll on my arm, plus we don't have a true shortstop other than me," he said.

Almost every college athlete has professional aspirations, and Pavkovich is no exception. *Baseball America* rated Pavkovich as having the best infield arm in the SEC, something that will help the tall, rangy shortstop in his quest to be drafted. He will be eligible for the draft after this season, but it's not something he's thinking about for the moment.

"You think about it, but right now we're trying to get this team together here and try to win," Pavkovich said. "It's in the back of your mind. You see scouts here and get letters from scouts. But that's in June, so you push that to the back of your mind until then."

His teammates think he has a bright future, and some have thought that if he keeps improving on his hitting, he could be playing in the major leagues one day.

"He's a great guy to be around, has a hard work ethic, and a good team guy," Heard said. "He's someone you want in the baseball game. He has some tools, and if he keeps working hard, he should get a shot."



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Another Big Year For Gherghel

by Andrew Varble II

Men and women show improvement in NCAA

In 2002, Alabama swimmer Stefan Gherghel became the first Crimson Tide freshman since Jonty Skinner in 1976 to win an NCAA title. Gherghel took top honors in the 200-meter butterfly. He did so by eclipsing the school record set by former Olympic Gold medalist Jon Sieben. The points generated from Gherghel's title, along with a top-eight finish by fellow frosh Stewart Smith off the three-meter board, pushed Alabama to a 20th place finish.

Not bad for a rookie.

This year in Austin, Texas, the dreaded sophomore jinx was nowhere to be found.

Gherghel made his own legacy by becoming the first Crimson Tide swimmer to repeat as NCAA Champion when he successfully defended his title, this time breaking his own school record in the process.

While he was writing his story in the Tide's history book, the race by which he was doing it was remarkably similar to his winning 2002 effort. Gherghel used a strong final 50 meters to blow by the field.

"It was just another incredible performance," Tide Coach Don Wagner said. "Coming in it was obvious that Stefan was not going to be denied. In the last 50 he made that clear. He just blew by everyone."

Unfortunately for Alabama, Gherghel will not be allowed to go for titles three and four. Because of age (he turned 25 this year), his college swimming career has ended. However, he intends to finish his degree at Alabama and will continue as an international swimmer.

This year Gherghel's efforts, combined with a strong push by the Tide's youth

movement, propelled the Tide eight spots up the national ladder to number 12, its highest finish since 1994. Gherghel and company would have finished in the top 10 had the 400 medley relay not been disqualified due to an obscure rule. (One of the Tide's swimmers exited the pool to the side instead of at the end of the pool which is legal in Olympic and international competition, but not NCAA.)

Despite the miscue, the Tide was back in the top-15, finishing ahead of Southeastern Conference rivals Georgia and Tennessee as well as national names such as Indiana and SMU.

"It was a great week for us," Wagner said. "Our guys swam so tough. We went from 20th to 12th in the span of a year," Wagner said. "And we are going to work very hard to continue that upward trend."

Another big piece of the Tide's "moving on up the standings" push was freshman Vlad Polyakov, who not only swam on both medley relays, but also scored in the 100

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and 200 breaststroke events. In fact, Polyakov did more than just score in the 200 breaststroke; he finished runner-up in the event, the Tide's highest NCAA breaststroke finish since Travis Myers was second in the 100 in 1994. Polyakov owns the school record in both the 100 (breaking the old school mark, set 20 years ago by Greg Higginson) and the 200 breaststroke (breaking Chris McDaniels' 1989 school mark).

"Vlad was with Brendan Hansen (of Texas, the eventual NCAA Champion) through the first 100 yards," Wagner said. "He swam the kind of race we needed him to swim. He was a beast out there."

Sophomore Stewart Smith earned All-America honors for the second year in a row, scoring off the one-meter board and the platform.

One of the reasons for the Tide's jump in the standings was its relays. Last year the Tide took no relays to the championship. This year all five qualified and four scored including a meet high sixth place finish in the 200 medley relay. The sprint duo of sophomore Spiros Bitsakis and rookie Apostolis Tsagarakis made a big impact on the relays with Bitsakis swimming on all five relays (as did Gherghel) while Tsagarakis was on four of the five.

In addition to Gherghel and Bitsakis on all five and Tsagarakis on all but the 800 freestyle relay, Polyakov swam on both the 200 and 400 medley relays. Freshman Darren Erasmus swam on the Tide's 200 and 400 freestyle relays while James Willcox and Franck Southon filled out the 800 freestyle relay.

Gherghel earned six All-American honors on the weekend while Bitsakis earned four. Polyakov and Tsagarakis both earned three All-American honors while Erasmus and Smith earned two each. Willcox and Southon both earned one a piece.

On the season, in addition to winning the most dual meets in recent memory, Alabama's men also set eight school records, including three relay marks. The most impressive of those relay marks to fall was the 400 freestyle relay set in 1983 by Jay Posey, Don Berger, Brendan McCarthy and Andreas Schmidt. Bitsakis, Erasmus, Tsagarakis and Gherghel shaved .06 off the 20 year old mark.

Alabama's women, swimming and diving at the NCAA Championships just down the road in Auburn, also had their best national showing in a while. The Tide's 15th place finish at the NCAA Championships was its highest since 1996



Stefan Gherghel has been one of the top swimmers in Alabama history and is one of the best in the nation and the world. Unfortunately, his sophomore season was his last as he turned 25 this year and can no longer compete at the NCAA level.
University of Alabama Photo by Tom Neil

when they were also 15th.

The women used several strong individual performances to move up three spots from last season's national finish. After finishing third in the 200 breaststroke her first two seasons, junior Anne Poleska moved up to the runner-up spot in 2003. Poleska touched at 2:09.13, finishing just behind Stanford's Tara Kirk and comfortably ahead of Arizona State's Agnes Kovacs. Poleska was seeded fifth going into finals. She also added a seventh place finish in the 100 breaststroke to the Tide's points total.

Poleska's finish earned the Krefeld, Germany native her second individual All-America honor of the meet and the sixth consecutive breaststroke All-America honor of her career.

Junior Lane Bassham finished third off the three-meter board to help the Crimson Tide's efforts, in addition to scoring off the one-meter board. Bassham is a three-time All-America.

Freshman sensation Candace Weiman did her part, scoring in the 100 butterfly and the 200 individual medley, using a school record in the individual medley. The Tide scored in the 200 and 400 medley relays to finish off its scoring. Freshman Kathryn Hallquist, Poleska, Weiman and freshman Alison Lafavers swam the 200 medley relay while Hallquist, Poleska, Weiman and junior Catalina Casaru swam the 400 medley relay.

Poleska and Weiman earned four All-American honors each on the weekend while Bassham and Hallquist earned two and Lafavers and Casaru earned one each.

Alabama broke four school records, including one relay.

This season marks Alabama's third consecutive top-20 finish. The Tide was 16th in 2001 and 18th last year. The last time Alabama was in the top-15 was 1996 when the Tide took 13th. The last time Alabama had three consecutive finishes in the top-20 was 1994, 1995 and 1996.

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Gottfried Adds Veteran Assistant

by Kirk McNair

**Williams leads winners
at 2003 awards reception**

Although Alabama Head Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried could point to a number of positives at the post-season event honoring the Crimson Tide of 2002-03, it was primarily a tribute to the seniors and their entire Bama careers. No one could suggest that the just-completed campaign was a good one.

The disappointing 2002-03 season started well, but ended terribly, a team going from a 9-0 start and number one national ranking to a 17-12 overall record, fourth place Southeastern Conference Western Division finish, first round exit in the SEC Tournament, and a mercy slot (and one-game showing) in the NCAA Tournament.

It is not unusual for a team in trouble to



Tom Asbury

make a coaching change. If the athletics director makes the call, it usually means a new head coach and entire new staff. But if the

head coach has the option to make the change, it means only a shuffle in the assistant ranks.

Gottfried has earned the opportunity to right the Crimson Tide ship. As he pointed out, in the past three years there have been 50 Alabama home basketball games. In those games, Crimson Tide faithful have walked back to the parking lot following a Bama win 47 times.

In a step to get Alabama back among the nation's basketball elite, Gottfried made a change in his coaching staff. Former Kansas State and Pepperdine Head Coach Tom Asbury has been named an assistant coach on Gottfried's staff.

Asbury, 57, had a 210-146 record as head coach, leading Pepperdine from 1988-94 and Kansas State from 1994-2000. Kansas State advanced to the NCAA tournament in 1996, Pepperdine in 1991, 1992 and 1994. His teams each had two NIT postseason tournament appearances. Asbury was voted West Coast Conference Coach of the Year at Pepperdine in 1991 and 1992 and was named Basketball Times district Coach of the Year in 1993.

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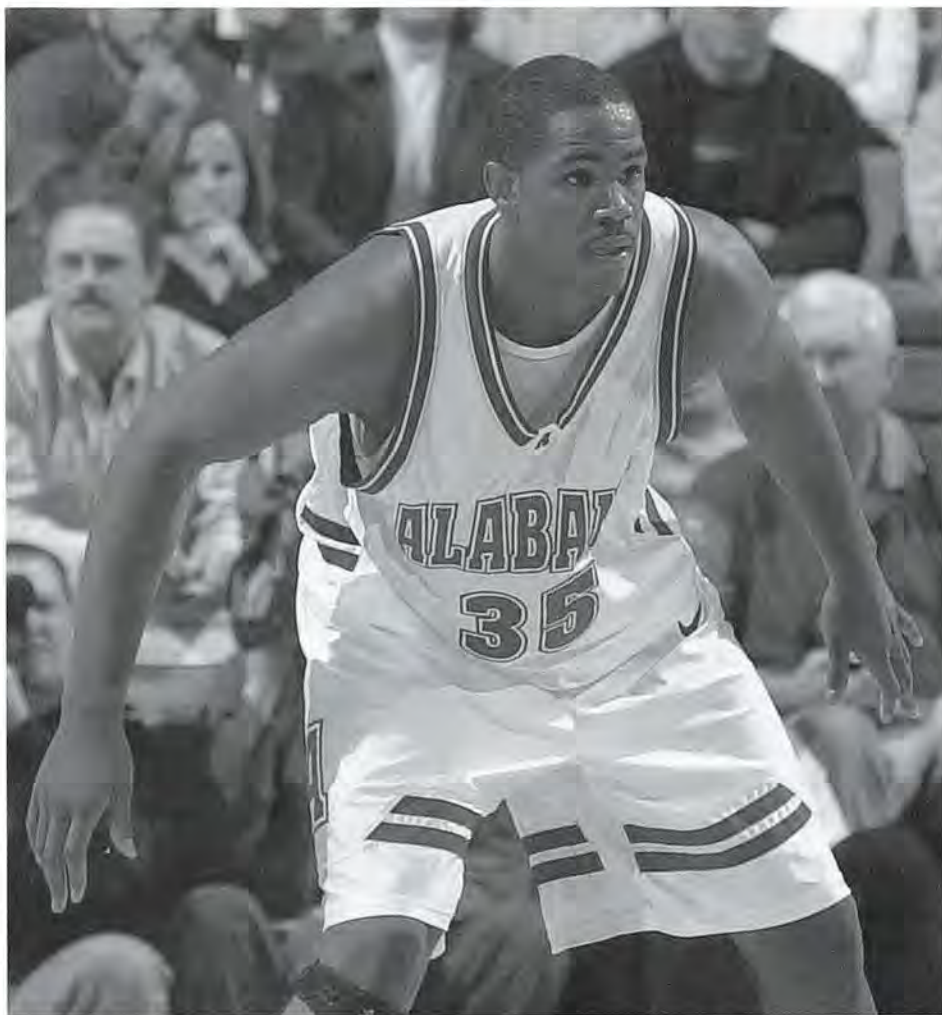
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Erwin Dudley missed Alabama's basketball awards reception after suffering a knee injury that required surgery. The Crimson Tide will miss Dudley next season. Barry Fikes Photo

Among his coaching strengths has been his teams' defensive play. In 1999 Kansas State led the nation in field goal percentage defense and his Kansas State teams led their conference in field goal percentage defense four years in a row, in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

"Tom brings a great deal of experience," said Gottfried, who cited Asbury's strong reputation for his ability to coach the big men and for those defensive statistics. "He's been successful as a head coach. And he'll add a great dimension with our staff. I have known Tom for more than 15 years and know his character. I'm excited about all the things he brings to our staff."

Asbury is a 1968 University of Wyoming graduate. He replaces Sammy Jackson on the Alabama staff. Jackson had been added prior to last year to replace T.R. Dunn.

Asbury's role as coach of big men will be tested quickly. That's because power forward Erwin Dudley and center Kenny Walker are among the three seniors departing this year's team.

Dudley, particularly, will be missed. He was the 2002 SEC Player of the Year and this season became the first player since former LSU great Shaquille O'Neal to win three consecutive SEC rebounding titles. O'Neal did that a decade ago before going on to dominate the NBA.

Dudley was a notable absentee at Alabama's basketball awards reception on April 15. While working out in an NBA pre-draft camp, Dudley suffered a knee injury. Examination showed he had a cracked patella (kneecap). Famed Birmingham orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews repaired the injury to Dudley's right knee. He was expected to spend about three weeks in rehabilitation before beginning workouts and was expected to be full strength within about six weeks, said Bama Trainer John Mohr.

Crimson Tide sophomore guard Mo Williams won the most team honors, taking home three awards as the player with the "Highest Free Throw

Percentage," "Highest Assists Average" and "Most Steals."

Dudley won for "Highest Field Goal Percentage" and for his forte the "Jerry Harper Rebound Leader Award."

Other winners included co-winners Lucky Williams and Demetrius Smith who shared the "Guy Lee Turner Memorial Defensive Award." Terrance Meade won the "Hayden Riley Scholastic Award," freshman Evan Brock took home the "Hustle Award," Antoine Pettway won the "Highest 3-point Field Goal Percentage Award," and Kenny Walker won the "Most Blocked Shots Awards."

Gottfried lauded his senior class for all that trio had done to lead the program during their four seasons at Alabama including winning the 2002 SEC regular season championship, achieving the school's first ever number one basketball ranking, setting the school record for most consecutive home wins at 28, and winning 82 games since their freshman season including home seasons where they were 17-1 in 2001 and 17-0 in 2002 and 13-2 in 2003.

The reception also applauded Alabama's basketball players' work in the classroom as four players, all of them starters at some point this season, were named to the Academic All-SEC honor roll which requires a minimum 3.0 grade point average. They are Erwin Dudley (criminal justice major), three-time winner Terrance Meade (management), Kenny Walker (communications) and Earnest Shelton (accounting). Meade was also the first Tide basketball player to be named a Verizon Academic All-America All-District Award winner.

While many believe Dudley will be heading to the NBA in the June 26 draft, and all Alabama basketball followers wish him the best in his professional career, those same Crimson Tide fans are hoping another Bama star is not available for the draft.

Guard Mo Williams is expected to be Bama's next likely NBA draftee, but almost no one thinks that Williams is ready for that jump yet. The problem is, if Williams thinks he's ready and makes the decision to go, he could prematurely end his college basketball career.

Underclassmen entering the NBA draft have until May 12 to declare, then may withdraw without penalty until June 19. However, any player who retains an agent forfeits his collegiate eligibility.

In recent years Bama has had two players leave early for the NBA. Gerald Wallace was a little-used Bama back-up as a freshman in 2001, but has made it onto the roster of the Sacramento Kings. Following last season, Rod Grizzard elected to forego his senior season to enter the NBA draft. He was selected by the Washington Wizards, but did not make the team. He spent this year playing for Mobile in the NBA Developmental League.

Tide May Not Add In Basketball

by Donna Fromme

Women's track and golf are first to announce

This year's late signing period began April 16, but there was little immediate activity. The spring signing period is basically for winter and spring sports.

The most-watched sport in recruiting other than football is men's basketball. Coach Mark Gottfried's staff signed three big men in the early signing period and may not add a signee in the late period, at least in part because the Tide doesn't have any men's basketball scholarships available.

At least three very good players in Alabama are available to be signed. And, of course, any or all could enter Alabama without benefit of scholarship.

James Lang, a 6-10, 305-pound center from Central Park Christian in Birmingham, is ranked the number four center prospect in the nation by TheInsiders.com and the number one prospect in Alabama. The McDonald All-America averaged 24.7 points and 16.3

rebounds as a senior. Louisville has long been considered the leader for Lang, with Alabama one of a few schools considered possibilities for Lang if he decided to attend college. Alabama was reportedly interested, but concerned about Lang's academic status.

It may be a moot point. Lang is thought to be seriously considering making himself available for the NBA draft. He said if he signs with a school, he will not enter the draft. And, therefore, that if he plans to enter the draft, he will not sign with a college team.

Georgia's basketball troubles could give Alabama a boost. The best point guard in Alabama signed with Georgia, but when the Bulldogs went through an academics scandal that forced veteran Coach Jim Harlick to resign, early Georgia signees sought and received limited releases.

Bama would seem to need some help at point guard. The now-available point guard from the Alabama prep ranks is Jordan Howell, 6-3, from Madison Bob Jones.

There has been some discussion as to whether Howell will be released to sign with a Southeastern Conference school. If he does not receive that release, he would have to pay his own way for two years, which would likely prevent him from inking with Alabama (or

Vanderbilt or Mississippi or Florida, other schools thought to be involved with Howell).

And while it's unlikely, it is possible Howell could elect to re-sign with Georgia and its new coach, Dennis Felton.

It had earlier been reported that Bama expects Justin Jonus, a 6-7 wing guard from Douglas High School, to enter Alabama in the fall. Jonus, who played for his father, Kirk Jonus, was the state's 4A Player of the Year and the number two prospect in the state after averaging 21 points, 9.5 rebounds, and 4.8 assists per game. Jonus has received interest from other schools, including national champion Syracuse.

Among other sports, women's track and field has announced five signees and women's golf has one signee and one expected walk-on in the fall. Several other sports can be expected to have signees, but a school may not release the name of a signee until that prospect's signed letter-of-intent papers have been received.

Coach Sandy Fowler's new signees include a number of state champions. The women's track additions are:

Tara Enebak, a senior at Auburn High School is the 2002 6A cross country state champion. Her personal bests include 5:07.5 in the mile, 11:17.5 two-mile, and 18:18 5-kilometer cross country.

From Mobile's McGill Toolen will come Elizabeth Wancowicz, the 2003 6A indoor state champion in 800 meters (2:16.7) and the mile (5:12.1).

Jill Bryant, a senior at Scottsboro High School, is the 2002 5A outdoor state champion in 1600 meters (5:11.8). She has best times of 11:25.3 in the 3200 and 19:10 in the 5K in cross country.

Kendall Clifford of Martin County High School in Stuart, Florida, has a score of 3,657 in the heptathlon. This versatile performer has bests of 14.25 in the 100 hurdles, 26.7 in the 200-meter run, 18-0 in the long jump, 5-3 high jump, 2:27 800 meters, 46.3 300 hurdles, and 61.0 400 hurdles.

Rachel Wilson of Groves High School near Savannah, Georgia, was one of 20 national female high school underclassmen chosen to attend the USA Track and Field's Women's Junior Elite Training Camp last summer. Her best times include: 100 meters 12.00; 200 meters 24.6; 100 hurdles 13.94; 300 Hurdles 43.0; and 400 hurdles 61.00

Coach Betty Palmer has some familiarity with a new golf signees. Maggie Hall of Shelbyville, Kentucky, is the daughter of Betty Baird Kregor, who played golf at Bama and was a teammate of Bama's current head coach. The women's golf team will also have a walkon in Lisa Andrzejewski who will attend Alabama on an academic Presidential Scholarship. She's from Orchard Park, New York.

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Tide Track Superstar Dies

Although David Kimani was known throughout the world for his greatness as a distance runner, few knew his full name until he unexpectedly died after being stricken while having lunch with Alabama teammates on April 16. David Kimani Murage came to the United States from Nairobi, Kenya, to run track at the

University of South Alabama in Mobile in 1999. When his USA coach, Joe Walker, was hired as distance coach at Alabama, Kimani followed to Tuscaloosa.

Kimani's track and field career ended earlier this year when he was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his leg. Although he was not expected to compete further for Coach Harvey

Glance's Crimson Tide, he was preparing for a professional track career.

The Tuscaloosa Fire Department and University of Alabama Police Department responded to a call at 12:19 p.m. at the dining hall at Mary Burke where Kimani had collapsed. He was transported by ambulance to DCH Regional Medical Center. Alabama team physician, Dr. Jimmy Robinson said that Kimani was pronounced dead at 1:15 p.m. An autopsy was to determine the cause of death.

A funeral service was held in Tuscaloosa and another was to be held in Nairobi, where he was to be buried. In Tuscaloosa there was both a Calvary Baptist Church service and a memorial service at the Sam Bailey Track and Field Stadium on April 21. Denny Chimes were rung in his honor the day of the Tuscaloosa services.

Kimani was married to Chamis Janelle Kimani of Mobile. He is also survived by his parents, a sister, and two brothers, all of Nairobi.

Those wishing to make a donation in David's memory in support of his family can send checks made out to the David Kimani Remembrance Fund. The mailing address for the fund is P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35487, attention: Marie Robbins.

Kimani, 25, was a six-time national champion and 14-time All-America as a member of the Crimson Tide track and cross country teams. He helped lead the Tide to a second place finish at the 2002 NCAA Indoor Championships. He was also a two-time SEC Cross Country Athlete of the Year and won the 1999 NCAA Cross Country title when he was a freshman at the University of South Alabama.

Kimani won the NCAA 1999 cross country title; the indoor 3,000 and 5,000 meter runs in 2000 and 2001 and the 5,000 meter outdoor championship in 2002.

Track coach, Harvey Glance said, "David was more than just a great athlete, he was also a great person. He thrilled the staff, his teammates, the country, and the whole world. He always had a smile and a positive attitude, but was the fiercest competitor I've ever laid eyes on."

Six-time national champion David Kimani died unexpectedly at age 25. He was a star distance runner for the Crimson Tide.

University of Alabama Photo



BAMA SCORECARD

Looking For A Sign

The University's legal staff is officially listed somewhat stuffily as "Office of Counsel." Following Bama's disastrous NCAA problems and then the inability to get a new contract to former Tide Football Coach Dennis Franchione for several months, the team was known facetiously in some circles as "Alabama's crack legal staff." However, there will be little humor if the issue of new Head Football Coach Mike Price not having a contract drags on.

It was revealed this spring that Price, who was hired last December 18, has still not signed his contract. And while he said, "There's nothing to be alarmed about," there has to be some concern about why The University can't take care of such routine matters.

Price said, "We agreed in principle to everything, and we are working out the wrinkles. This is not unusual in the football world, I don't think."

A source said the contract presented to Price was not acceptable to his attorney.

There was also mention of Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson not having signed her contract, but she has a contract offer and indicated she had not had time to deal with it while preparing to be inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and preparing her team to defend the national championship.

Looking For A Fund-Raiser

Athletics Director Mal Moore is beginning the search process for a new director of athletic development. Bill Farley, the first and only person to hold that position, is leaving Alabama after four-plus years on the job. Farley has been selected as athletics director for the University of Central Oklahoma.

Farley, one of the most popular members of the Crimson Tide staff, came to Alabama in late 1998 from a similar position at the University of Oklahoma.

Farley was involved in fund-raising for all Bama sports, including the capital gifts and endowed gifts program, Tide Pride, and, most recently, the Crimson Tradition campaign. He was particularly involved in the implementation of Alabama's subscription-based internet site, CrimsonTradition.com

Strange Things Happen

When a baseball game has a final score of 17-16, it's expected there will be some memorable events. And so it was when Alabama held off a ninth-inning rally against South Alabama to win by that score on April 16.

The bulk of the Alabama offense was provided by Travis Garner's school record-tying five hits and a season-high four home runs by the Crimson Tide.

Garner went 5-for-6 to record the 23rd five-hit game in school history. He is just

the fourth player in Bama history to record more than one five-hit game in his career. Garner also had five hits in a game last year at South Carolina, going 5-for-5 on March 3, 2002.

Andy Phillips, David Magadan and Jeremy Brown are the only other UA players with more than one five-hit game in a career. Phillips and Magadan recorded three five-hit games for the Crimson Tide.

In addition to his five hits, Garner also scored three runs and added one RBI.

Beau Hearod, Al Hecklinski, Zac Welch and Adam Pavkovich all homered for the Crimson Tide, the most by Alabama this season.

Pennington Drops Baseball

Spencer Pennington, who had played sparingly for Bama's baseball team the past two years, has elected to give up baseball to concentrate on football. Pennington had a very good spring as he competed for the quarterback job.

Earlier the baseball team lost the services of another football player, Shaud Williams. Williams, Bama's returning starting tailback, was used almost exclusively as a pinch runner in baseball.

Brandon Avalos, a football quarterback, is still playing baseball, starting in center field. Avalos missed less than two weeks after undergoing an emergency appendectomy in late March.

Britt Is Not That Kind Of Boy

Alabama offensive tackle Wesley Britt has turned down the opportunity to be a pre-season All-America in *PLAYBOY* magazine. Britt had been scheduled to fly to California and appear in the special football pre-season issue of the magazine, which is better known for its photographs of beautiful women with little or no coverage than it is for its football coverage.

Britt told the *Cullman Times*, "After thinking about it for a while, I decided this is not one of my goals. I put God first and I set my goals for him. I talked to God about it and I felt it just wasn't the right thing to do."

He said he spends much time speaking to church groups and to schools and tries to lead by being a good example, adding an ap-

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pearance in *PLAYBOY* would not be the right example.

Britt, 6-8, 312, is an upcoming junior who has started 25 consecutive games in his first two years. He was All-SEC last season.

Sterner Wins Award

Although the Southeastern Conference is rightfully known for its athletics achievements, the hierarchy of the league and its members take greatest pride in the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year awards. Alabama gymnast Kristin Sterner is this year's female recipient. The formal presentation will be made at the SEC's spring meeting in Destin, Florida, on May 29.

Florida basketball player Matt Bonner is the male recipient. The two were chosen by a committee of faculty athletics representatives from SEC universities. Both will receive a \$10,000 post-graduate scholarship, provided by ALLTEL.

A nine-time All-America going into this year's NCAA Championships, Sterner has maintained a 3.92 grade point average in biology. She was captain of Alabama's 2002 NCAA Championship squad and has led Alabama to a pair of SEC team titles, including the 2003 championship this year.

She is a finalist for the AAI American Award, given annually to the top senior gymnast in the nation. She has been a Scholastic All-American throughout her collegiate career and has made the President's list three times and the Dean's List for four times at Alabama. She is a member of Beta Beta Beta, Phi Eta Sigma Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. In 2002, she participated in the McCollough Medical Scholars Forum at Alabama. She has worked at several youth camps, reads to students at Tuscaloosa area elementary schools and volunteers with the Salvation Army, United Way and Big Oak Ranch. Sterner has also visited area hospitals, handing out gifts and talking with patients, and has worked with youth gymnastics clubs in the Tuscaloosa area.

In addition, 11 other male and female finalists for the McWhorter Award will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. They include Bama basketball player Terrance Meade.

The awards have been presented since 1986. Previous Alabama winners are gymnasts Julie Estin in 1987 and Meredith Willard in 1995 and baseball player Jeff Laubenthal in 1992.

Women's Tennis Shines

Alabama's women's tennis team, which had the best league record among SEC Western Division teams this year at 6-5, goes into the NCAA Tournament with a 17-7 overall record and ranked 20th in the nation. (NCAA Tournament bids were to go out

April 30.) The SEC record is Bama's best since 1997 and the best ever under Coach Jenny Mainz.

The nine-woman Bama squad included six freshmen.

However, the top performer was senior Sophie Cremers, who earned first team All-SEC. Cremers went 19-3 in dual matches, including an 8-3 mark in SEC competition. She was 6-0 at number two and 2-3 at number one in SEC competition.

"I think that Sophie is very deserving of first team All-SEC," Mainz said. "She has played very authoritative tennis all year. She invested a lot into her senior year."

This marks the first time a member of the Crimson Tide has been named first team All-SEC in singles since Hilde Otterman in 1994. Otterman also made first team All-SEC in doubles with Marouschka van Dijk in 1994 and 1995. Baile Camino made second team All-SEC in singles in 1996 and 1997.

Men's Tennis Honoree

Alabama tennis player Maxim Belski earned second-team All SEC honors for the second consecutive season. The senior from Minsk, Belarus, is a three-time NCAA Championship individual participant and an All-America.

Freshman Diver Of The Year

J.R. Hillis, a freshman diver from Kokomo, Indiana, was named SEC Male Freshman Diver of the Year.

Emmy Winner

Former Alabama softball manager Katie Morgan received an Emmy for being an Associate Producer for the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City on NBC.

Going To Disney World.

Adam Hall, a junior Alabama swimmer, has been selected to participate in the 2003 NCAA Leadership Conference in May. Hall will join other select NCAA student-athletes who have been identified as leaders on their campuses and in their communities to discuss student-athlete welfare issues and to enhance their leadership skills at the Coronado Springs Resort and Walt Disney World Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

The NCAA Leadership Conference is one of the largest non-competitive gatherings of NCAA student-athletes. This will be the seventh leadership conference that the NCAA has hosted for student-athletes who compete in fall, winter and spring sports in Divisions I, II and III.

Criteria for selection include the student-athletes' demonstrated ability and strong desire to be a leader and the student-athletes' potential to benefit significantly from a leadership development experience. College and university officials who have CHAMPS/Life Skills programs at their schools are encouraged to nominate student-athletes for the conference. Many of the participants selected for the leadership conference are also

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members of the student-athlete advisory committees in their athletic conference or on their campus. The NCAA will announce the student-athletes who have been selected for the leadership conference in May.

In order to be eligible for the leadership conference, the student-athletes must be in good academic standing and must have athletics eligibility remaining in the following academic year. A committee comprised of CHAMPS/Life Skills coordinators from member institutions and NCAA student-athletes review the nominations to determine the final selections.

The conference was designed as a forum for student-athletes to discuss key issues collectively, and to provide them with an opportunity to enhance skills, which will enable them to become more effective leaders and motivators when they return to their campuses. The conference also provides student-athletes with exercises to enhance their decision-making and problem-solving skills, and to improve planning and priority management.

During the five-day leadership conference, student-athletes have the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics, which include the demands and expectations of student-ath-

letes; inclusion education; international student-athlete experiences; recruiting visits; student-athlete responsibility; party behaviors; trust gaps within intercollegiate athletics; and sportsmanship.

Following the leadership conference, the student-athletes will be asked to share their experiences and topic discussions with their campus student-athlete advisory committees, as well as other campus leaders. The participants are also asked to develop a strategic plan that will address or solve an issue on their campus or in their community, and implement the plan when they return to their campuses.

Camp Time

Summertime is camp time for many young people, and The University of Alabama Athletics Department offers camps in virtually every sport and in cheerleading. Various camps are available for those as young as first graders through upcoming high school seniors.

Specific camp information for all sports is available by calling 1-205-348-6161. For football camp information call 1-205-348-0808. Information is also available on line at RollTide.com

2003 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
August 30	South Florida	Birmingham	First Meeting
September 6	Oklahoma	Tuscaloosa	Even, 1-1-1
September 13	Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 31-2-1
September 20	Northern Illinois	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting
September 27	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 9-4-0
October 4	Georgia	Athens	Alabama leads, 35-23-4
October 11	Southern Miss (Homecoming)	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 31-6-2
October 18	Mississippi	Oxford	Alabama leads, 40-8-2
October 25	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 43-35-7
November 8	Mississippi State	Starkville	Alabama leads, 69-15-3
November 15	LSU	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 43-18-5
November 22	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama leads, 38-28-1
November 29	Hawaii	Honolulu	Alabama leads, 1-0-0

2003 Alabama Spring Sports Results

Baseball

Date/UA Score	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
Astros Classic @ Houston		
9	La-Lafayette	3
2	Houston	7
6	Rice	5
4	Centenary	3
7	SE Missouri	8
16	SE Missouri	1
9	SE Missouri	4
21	Miss. Valley State	0
9	Rhode Island	2
9	Rhode Island	1
7	Rhode Island	6
18	Belmont	4
16	Massachusetts	2
6	Massachusetts	3
12	Massachusetts	0
6	Louisiana Tech	3
8	Georgia	7
12	Georgia	2
7	Georgia	5
3	@ Samford	2
8	@ Florida	3
1	@ Florida	6
5	@ Florida	6
15	@ UAB	8
4	LSU	2
6	LSU	10
10	LSU	11
7	West Alabama	9
2	@ Auburn	10
3	@ Auburn	2
6	@ Auburn	7
12	@ NW State	8
11	@ Centenary	9
8	Kentucky	7
3	Kentucky	5
4	Kentucky	1
17	South Alabama	16
2	@ Ole Miss	10
7	@ Ole Miss	3
3	@ Ole Miss	8
Apr. 23	UAB	6:30
Apr. 25	Arkansas	6:30
Apr. 26	Arkansas	4:00
Apr. 27	Arkansas	2:00
Apr. 30	Samford	6:30
May 2	@ Tennessee	6:00
May 3	@ Tennessee	3:00
May 4	@ Tennessee	1:00
May 6	B'ham-Southern	6:30
May 9	South Carolina	6:30
May 10	South Carolina	3:00
(Fox Sports South TV)		
May 11	South Carolina	2:00
May 13	Jacksonville State	6:30
May 16	@ Mississippi St	6:30
May 17	@ Mississippi St	2:00
May 18	@ Mississippi St	1:30
May 21	SEC Tournament	
May 25	@ Hoover Met	
May 30-	NCAA Regionals	
June 1	@ campus sites	
June 6-	NCAA SuperRegionals	
June 8	@ campus sites	
June 13-	College World Series	
June 22	@ Omaha, Nebraska	

All times central

Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
Stacy Winsberg @ Los Angeles		
3	Cal-Fullerton	4
4	Cal Fullerton	1
3	Cal-Northridge	0
4	UCLA	5
7	Loyola-Marymount	4
Fun In Sun Classic @ Miami		
2	Florida Atlantic	0
11	Florida International	4
6	Ohio State	4
0	Florida International	1
2	Ohio State	7
Bama Bash		
8	Winthrop	0
5	Western Kentucky	4
0	Southern Illinois	4
6	Western Kentucky	0
3	Southern Illinois	1
Leadoff Classic @ Columbus, Ga.		
5	Illinois State	0
4	California	2
7	Notre Dame	4
Crimson Classic		
2	Kansas	1
1	Texas-Arlington	4
0	Penn State	1
4	Kansas	6
1	Penn State	2
1	@ Jacksonville St	0
7-4	Arkansas (2)	1-3
5	Arkansas	0
9-1	@ Tennessee (2)	1-2
8	@ Tennessee	0
5	Southern Miss	1
6	Troy State	0
7-2	Kentucky (2)	4-1
8	Kentucky	2
0	@ La-Lafayette	2
3-7	@ LSU (2)	4-2
1	@ LSU	2
2-4	Auburn (2)	1-0
4	Auburn	0
5-5	Ole Miss (2)	1-1
9	Ole Miss	4
2-2	@ Florida (2)	1-4
4	@ Florida	2
7-8	Mississippi St (2)	3-5
3	Mississippi St	7
6	@ So. Carolina (2)	3
1-3	@ So. Carolina	5-2
6	UT-Chattanooga	3
Apr. 26	Georgia Tech (2)	Noon
May 3	@ Georgia (2)	1:00
May 4	@ Georgia	2:00
(Fox Sports South TV)		
May 8-	SEC Tournament	
May 11	@ Plant City, Fla.	

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Feb. 9-	Tulane Intercollegiate	
Feb. 10	@ New Orleans	7 of 9
Mar. 14-	Lady Gamecock	
Mar. 16	@ Columbia, SC. rain	
Mar. 24-	Samford Invitational	
Mar. 25	@ Calera	1 of 18
Apr. 5-	Liz Murphey Classic	
Apr. 7	@ Athens, Ga.	15 of 20
Apr. 18-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 20	@ Lexington, Ky.	12th

Men's Tennis

Date/UofA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	Troy State	0
7	Southern Miss	0
5	@ Northwestern	2
4	Georgia Tech	3
6	Jacksonville St	1
6	Georgia State	1
7	UT-Chattanooga	0
4	Ohio State	3
4	Florida State	3
5	@ MTSU	2
6	@ LSU	1
3	@ Arkansas	4
1	@ Tennessee	4
5	Georgia	2
4	South Florida	3
3	Mississippi State	4
2	Ole Miss	4
1	@ Texas A&M	6
2	Florida	5
4	South Carolina	3
4	@ Kentucky	2
0	@ Vanderbilt	7
6	@ UAB	1
3	@ Auburn	4
SEC Championships @ Oxford		
4	Mississippi State	1
0	Florida	4
May 10- NCAA Regionals		
May 11 @ campus sites		
May 17- NCAA Championships		
May 26 @ Athens, Ga.		

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Result
Feb. 8-	Gator Invitational	
Feb. 9 @	Gainesville	8 of 15
Mar. 7-	UNLV Invitational	
Mar. 9	@ Las Vegas	9 of 15
Mar. 14-	Rehling Invitational	
Mar. 16 @	Capstone Club	2 of 9
Mar. 30-	National Collegiate	
Apr. 1 @	Tucson, Ariz.	14 of 14
Apr. 5-	Augusta St. Invit.	
Apr. 6 @	Augusta, Ga.	13 of 17
Apr. 11-	Billy Hitchcock Invit.	
Apr. 12	@ Auburn	10 of 12
Apr. 20	One-Day Make-Up	
	@ Auburn	6 of 6
Apr. 25-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 27	@ Sea Island, Ga.	

Women's Tennis

Date/UofA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	Georgia State	0
7	UT-Chattanooga	0
7	Washington State	0
7	Penn State	0
Mobile Collegiate		
6	Fla. International	1
1	South Alabama	6
7	Houston	0
6	West Virginia	1
4	@ Florida State	3
7	LSU	0
7	Arkansas	0
1	@ Georgia	6
6	@ Mississippi State	1
5	@ Ole Miss	2
7	Minnesota	0
6	UAB	0
0	@ Florida	7
6	@ So. Carolina	1
3	Kentucky	4
2	Vanderbilt	5
4	Auburn	3
SEC Championships @ Knoxville		
4	Mississippi State	1
2	Kentucky	4
May 9- NCAA Regionals		
May 11 TBA		
May 15- NCAA Championships		
May 24 @ South Bend, Ind.		

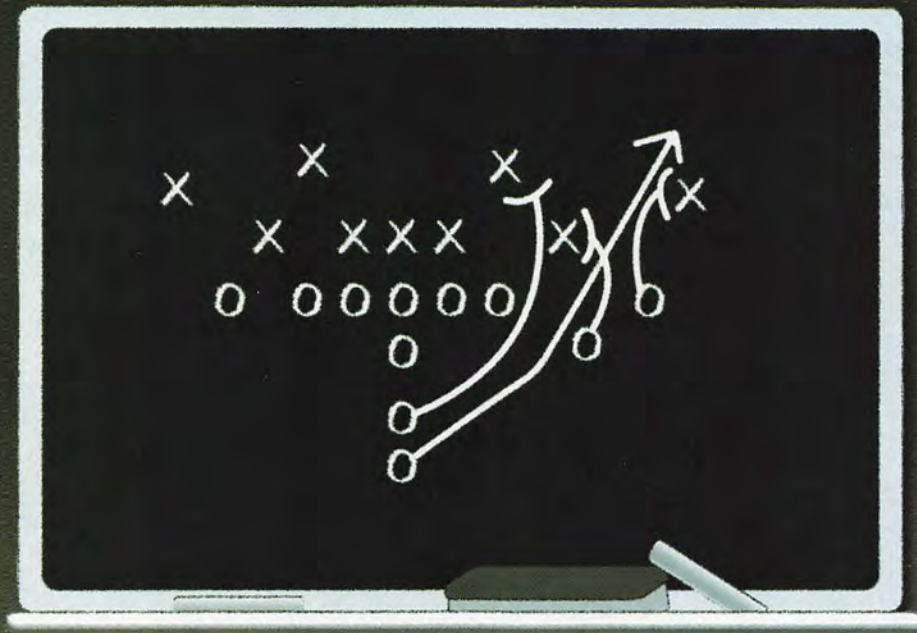
Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Mar. 20-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 23		1st
Mar. 28-	Florida Relays	
Mar. 29	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Mar. 28-	Stanford Invitational	
Mar. 29	@ Palo Alto, Calif.	
Apr. 12	Sun Angel @ Tempe, AZ	
Apr. 19-	Ole Miss Invitational	
Apr. 20	@ Oxford, Miss.	
Apr. 24-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 26	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 3	Jesse Owens Invite	
	@ Columbus, Ohio	
May 15-	SEC Championships	
May 18	@ Knoxville, Tenn.	
May 30-	NCAA Regionals	
May 31	@ Columbus, Ohio	
June 12-	NCAA Championships	
June 14	@ Sacramento, Calif.	

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Mar. 20-	Alabama Relays	
Mar. 23		1st
Mar. 29	SEC Four-Way	
	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 4-	Georgia Tech Invite	
Apr. 5	@ Atlanta, Ga.	
Apr. 10-	Sea Rays Relays	
Apr. 11	@ Knoxville, Tenn.	
Apr. 24-	Drake Relays	
Apr. 26	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
May 3	LSU Invitational	
	@ Baton Rouge	

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